

MILITARY FOOD INSECURITY

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, the House Agriculture Committee has been focused on the issue of food insecurity and the programs that serve those in need beyond personal resources, family support, and community programs.

Many are surprised to learn that 22,000 Active Duty military families receive supplemental nutritional assistance, or SNAP. Food insecurity for the families of these American heroes can be triggered by low pay among lower-ranking enlistees, high military spouse unemployment, larger household sizes, and unexpected financial emergencies.

We lifted one barrier to SNAP assistance for military families by disbanding the Department of Defense-administered Family Subsistence Supplemental Allowance, or FSSA. It was determined that the FSSA benefit was duplicative, underutilized, hard to qualify for, and less valuable than SNAP, with as few as 100 military families utilizing FSSA.

Another significant barrier that prevents some military families from qualifying for SNAP is the fact that their off-base housing allowance counts as income when computing eligibility. It is my hope we remedy this.

Mr. Speaker, as we prepare for reauthorization of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, we must remember the needs of America's finest and their families, our American military. After all, nutrition matters.

AFFIRMING THE UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

(Mr. HIGGINS of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to affirm the great work of the United States Environmental Protection Agency.

In my home community of Buffalo, New York, we have seen the EPA's effectiveness firsthand. Thirty years ago, the Buffalo River was declared biologically dead and ecologically destroyed because of industrial dumping of toxic waste directly into the river bed. Today, the Buffalo River has been remediated and continues to show vastly improved water quality.

The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, administered by the EPA; the Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper; and our corporate partner, Honeywell, have invested more than \$70 million to remove 67,000 truckloads of toxic waste from the Buffalo River.

Today, the Buffalo River and adjacent land are helping to lead an economic and life-quality renaissance at the water's edge in Buffalo, New York.

TO THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT: IT'S TIME

(Mr. HULTGREN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HULTGREN. Mr. Speaker, it is a bitter reality that universal human rights are under daily assault around the world.

I rise today joining in celebration and in mourning with Chinese democracy activist Zhu Yufu. This past week, he turned 64, but he marked the occasion in prison.

Zhu Yufu has devoted his life to promoting democracy and human rights, to the ire of Chinese authorities. In 2012, he was condemned to 7 years imprisonment on unjust charges. Since then, his health has deteriorated, made worse by denial of medical care and inhumane treatment. His family fears for his life.

The poem that led to Yufu's imprisonment is called "It's Time." I completely agree. It is time. It is time for the Chinese government to provide Zhu Yufu with proper medical treatment and humane care. More than that, it is time for the Chinese Government to release Zhu Yufu and political prisoners like him who are unjustly detained. It is time for the Chinese Government to recognize and support freedom of speech, assembly, thought, and belief.

PUT AMERICA FIRST INSTEAD OF THE KREMLIN

(Mrs. BUSTOS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, for the sake of our country, I was relieved that General Michael Flynn resigned from his post as National Security Adviser. Not only did he mislead the Vice President and the public on his secret conversations with the Russian government, he may have also violated Federal law.

But what is just as concerning is that the Trump administration was aware of General Flynn's misconduct weeks ago and did nothing about it. The American people deserve to know what President Trump knew, and when he knew it.

And let me be clear: General Flynn's resignation is not the end of the Trump administration's shady ties to Russia. We still don't know President Trump's financial interests in Russia because he refuses to release his tax returns.

We still don't know the extent of Russia's disturbing interference in our election because our calls for an investigation have been stonewalled.

And we just learned that the Trump campaign was in regular conversation with Russian intelligence officials.

President Trump's coziness with Vladimir Putin is an urgent matter of national security.

It is time that the Trump administration truly put America first, rather than the Kremlin.

AMERICAN HEART MONTH

(Mr. ROSS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize American Heart Month and the need to encourage and support one another to be proactive in preventative heart care.

I would like to thank President Trump for honoring the tradition of dedicating February as American Heart Month so that we may continue our fight against heart disease and heart defects as a nation.

Heart disease is the leading cause of death in the United States. Every year, one in four deaths is caused by heart disease, and approximately 40,000 babies are born in the U.S. with a congenital heart defect, including myself.

The good news is that heart disease can often be detected earlier and even prevented when we are proactive, make healthy choices, manage our health conditions, and keep up with our annual physicals.

Communities, health professionals, and families can work together to create opportunities for people to make healthier life choices and to lessen the stigma and fear of simply going to the doctor.

As this is American Heart Month, I encourage all Americans to use this month to raise awareness about heart disease and heart defects, and how we can prevent, treat, and cope with them, both at home and throughout our communities.

Through the support of my family and friends, the guidance of my doctors, and the grace of God, I am blessed to be standing here to support those across our Nation who are affected in some way by heart disease and heart defects. My prayers and thoughts go out to every one of you.

I ask my colleagues to join me in promoting American Heart Month so that we can all help save precious lives.

WE OWE THE AMERICAN PEOPLE THE ABSOLUTE TRUTH

(Mr. KILDEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, National Security Adviser Michael Flynn's resignation is no substitute for answers to the serious questions that remain over President Trump's questionable connections to Russia, to Vladimir Putin.

Federal investigators believe that Flynn, who held secret communications with Russia's Ambassador, could have been compromised, or even the subject of blackmail. The Justice Department disclosed this danger to the White House weeks ago, yet the President allowed Mr. Flynn to continue in his position as National Security Adviser, after having that information disclosed to them.

This conduct could only be the tip of the iceberg. There are serious, unanswered questions that remain, and our